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HOUSE BILL 139

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Rick Miera

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

**RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; REQUIRING NEW MEXICO HISTORY AS
PART OF THE UNITS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**Section 1. Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,
Chapter 33, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:**

"22-13-1.1. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS. - -

**A. At the end of grades eight through eleven, each
student shall prepare an interim next-step plan that sets forth
the coursework for the grades remaining until high school
graduation. Each year's plan shall explain any differences
from previous interim next-step plans, shall be filed with the
principal of the student's high school and shall be signed by
the student, the student's parent or guardian and the student's
guidance counselor or other school official charged with**

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1 coursework planning for the student.

2 B. Each student must complete a final next-step
3 plan during the senior year and prior to graduation. The plan
4 shall be filed with the principal of the student's high school
5 and shall be signed by the student, the student's parent or
6 guardian and the student's guidance counselor or other school
7 official charged with coursework planning for the student.

8 C. An individualized education program that meets
9 the requirements of Subsections A and B of this section and
10 that meets all applicable transition and procedural
11 requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities
12 Education Act for a student with a disability shall satisfy the
13 next-step plan requirements of this section for that student.

14 D. A local school board shall ensure that each high
15 school student has the opportunity to develop a next-step plan
16 and is reasonably informed about:

- 17 (1) curricular and course options;
18 (2) opportunities available that lead to
19 different post-high-school options; and
20 (3) alternative opportunities available if the
21 student does not finish a planned curriculum.

22 E. The secretary [~~of public education~~] shall:

- 23 (1) establish specific accountability
24 standards for administrators, counselors, teachers and school
25 district staff to ensure that every student has the opportunity

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1 to develop a next-step plan;

2 (2) promulgate rules for accredited private
3 schools in order to ensure substantial compliance with the
4 provisions of this section;

5 (3) monitor compliance with the requirements
6 of this section; and

7 (4) compile such information as is necessary
8 to evaluate the success of next-step plans and report annually,
9 by December 15, to the legislative education study committee
10 and the governor.

11 F. Successful completion of a minimum of twenty-
12 three units aligned to the state academic content and
13 performance standards shall be required for graduation. These
14 units shall be as follows:

15 (1) four units in English, with major emphasis
16 on grammar and literature;

17 (2) three units in mathematics, at least one
18 of which is equivalent to the algebra 1 level or higher;

19 (3) two units in science, one of which shall
20 have a laboratory component; provided, however, that with
21 students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2005-2006
22 school year, three units in science shall be required, one of
23 which shall have a laboratory component;

24 (4) three units in social science, which shall
25 include United States history and geography, world history and

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1 geography and government and economics;

2 (5) one unit in physical education [~~or other~~
3 ~~physical activity~~];

4 (6) one unit in communication skills or
5 business education, with a major emphasis on writing and
6 speaking and that may include a language other than English;
7 [~~and~~]

8 (7) one-half unit in New Mexico history for
9 students entering the ninth grade beginning in the 2005-2006
10 school year; and

11 [~~(7)~~] (8) nine elective units and [~~eight~~]
12 seven and one-half elective units for students entering the
13 ninth grade in the 2005-2006 school year that meet state board
14 content and performance standards. Student service learning
15 shall be offered as an elective.

16 G. The department shall establish a procedure for
17 students to be awarded credit through completion of specified
18 career technical education courses for certain graduation
19 requirements.

20 H. Final examinations shall be administered to all
21 students in all classes offered for credit.

22 I. A student shall not receive a high school
23 diploma who has not passed a state graduation examination in
24 the subject areas of reading, English, math, writing, science
25 and social science. The state graduation examination on social

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1 science shall include a section on the constitution of the
2 United States and the constitution of New Mexico. If a student
3 exits from the school system at the end of grade twelve without
4 having passed a state graduation examination, [~~he~~] the student
5 shall receive an appropriate state certificate indicating the
6 number of credits earned and the grade completed. If within
7 five years after a student exits from the school system [~~he~~]
8 the student takes and passes the state graduation examination,
9 [~~he~~] the student may receive a high school diploma.

10 J. As used in this section:

11 (1) "final next-step plan" means a next-step
12 plan that shows that the student has committed or intends to
13 commit in the near future to a four-year college or university,
14 a two-year college, a trade or vocational program, an
15 internship or apprenticeship, military service or a job;

16 (2) "interim next-step plan" means an annual
17 next-step plan in which the student specifies post-high-school
18 goals and sets forth the coursework that will allow the student
19 to achieve those goals; and

20 (3) "next-step plan" means an annual personal
21 written plan of studies developed by a student in a public
22 school or other state-supported school or institution in
23 consultation with the student's parent or guardian and school
24 counselor or other school official charged with coursework
25 planning for the student.

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K. The secretary [~~of public education~~] may
establish a policy to provide for administrative
interpretations to clarify curricular and testing provisions of
the Public School Code. "

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